



राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग  
**National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**  
(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)  
(A Constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

F. No. NCST/DEV-407/AP/19/2022-ESDW

Dated: 26.05.2023

To,

**Dr. Sreedhar Cherukuri,**  
Commissioner of Rehabilitation And Resettlement (R&R),  
Water Resources Department,  
Government Of Andhra Pradesh,  
Venkata Novus Elite, 1St Floor, Opp To Andhra Hospital,  
Gollapudi, Vijayawada-521225, Andhra Pradesh,  
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 521225  
E-Mail: commrr16@gmail.com

**Sub: Minutes of the Sitting taken by Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, NCST, New Delhi on 11.05.2023 at 11:00 AM on the representation received from Smt. Kavuluri Seethamma and others, At Thrupumetta Village, Nelavaram Gram Panchayat, West Godavari-534444, Andhra Pradesh regarding surveying of submerging of agricultural lands.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of Minutes of the Sitting taken by Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, NCST, New Delhi on 11.05.2023 at 11:00 AM on the above mentioned subject for information and necessary action.

2. You are directed to send the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the Commission **within 90 days** from the date of receiving of the Minutes.

Encl: as Above.

Yours faithfully,

  
(H.R. Meena)  
Research Officer

Copy for information to: -

1. **Smt. Kavuluri Seethamma,**  
At Thrupumetta Village,  
Nelavaram Gram Panchayat,  
West Godavari-534444,  
Andhra Pradesh
2.  **NIC Cell for upload in NCST Website.**

## National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

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No. NCST/DEV-407/AP/19/2022-RO-ESDW

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, NCST on the representation from Smt. Kavuluri Seethamma has alleged that the Koya community is being affected by the Polavaram Project, but the government has not conducted a survey to determine the extent of the damage and compensation needed for those affected.

Date of the Sitting: 11.05.2023

List of Participants: As per Annexure

The Commission received a representation on 28.04.2022, from Smt. Kavuluri Seethamma alleging that the Koya Community is being affected by the Polavaram Project, with their land being submerged. She expressed concern that the government has not conducted a survey of the affected areas to assess the extent of the damage and the compensation that should be provided to those affected. She further requested that the government take into account the concerns of the affected communities and ensure that their rights are protected.

The NCST vide notice dated 24.05.2022 has referred the matter to the Commissioner, Water resources department, Andhra Pradesh and the District Collector, West Godavari to furnish the facts and comments within 30 days from the receipt of the notice. No reply was received from the authority.

Subsequently Summon was issued to Dr. Sreedhar Cherukuri, Commissioner of rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) Water resources department, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, Shri V. Prasanna Venkatesh, Collector & District Magistrate, Elluru District and Smt. P. Prashanthi, Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari District on 02.05.2023.

In the hearing held on 11.05.2023 Dr. Sreedhar Cherukuri, Commissioner of rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) Water resources department, Govt of Andhra Pradesh was present. Shri V. Prasanna Venkatesh, Collector & District Magistrate, Elluru District and Smt. P. Prashanthi, Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari District did not appear.

Dr. Sreedhar Cherukuri, Commissioner of rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) Water resources department, Govt of Andhra Pradesh informed the Commission that due to heavy rains and floods in the monsoon season of 2022, the proposed survey could not be conducted as most of the villages (650 villages in 44 Mandals) mentioned in the petition became inaccessible. Consequently, the final report could not be submitted to the Commission. In reference to this, the Special Collector (LA) of the Polavaram Irrigation Project in Rajamahendravaram has submitted a detailed report



based on the findings of the Special Deputy Collector (LA), Polavaram Irrigation Project, RMC Unit-II, Eluru. The report includes observations made during inspections of lands in various villages, particularly those located above the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) as determined by the Irrigation Department.

In case any inaccessible lands are found, a Revised LP Schedule will be obtained from the Irrigation Authorities, and necessary action will be taken by the Land Acquisition Officer. The report also addresses specific pleas made by individuals regarding land possession and title claims. However, it is revealed that some of the lands are classified as Forest lands and the individuals have not produced the required documentation claiming ownership. Additionally, certain individuals recorded as pattadars (landholders) have not been issued or assigned any D-Form Patta. Further authority requested that the Commission to provide a three-month extension to confirm eligibility, undertake further necessary actions, pass awards, pay compensation if deemed eligible, and submit a report to the Commission.

The Commission has expressed serious displeasure regarding the delay in conducting the survey and further observed that proper verification has not been conducted by the administration and that they have also not followed the due procedure as mentioned under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules, 2012 in ensuring the Individual Forest rights to the Scheduled Tribes.

After the hearing, the Commission recommends the followings: -

1. The Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of the Water Resources Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, will ensure that the survey is completed within three months. They will also ensure that the land rights of all affected families are settled, along with the compensation, after verification. In addition, he will also furnish the copy of R&R policy to the commission

The Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of the Water Resources Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, will submit the Action Taken Report with compliance of the recommendations to the commission within 3 months to the commission.

(ANNEXURE)

F. No. NCST/DEV-407/AP/19/2022-RO-BHUV

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: -**

<b>National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</b>		
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Ananta Nayak	Hon'ble Member
2.	Smt. Miranda Ingudam	Director
3.	Sh. Avinash Mattur	Legal Consultant
<b>Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&amp;R), Water Resource Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh</b>		
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Dr. Sreedhar Cherukuri	Commissioner. (R&R),
<b>Petitioner</b>		
1.	Absent	Petitioner